



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.		
10/591,768	09/27/2006	Ulrich Kautz	27622U	6372		
34375	7590	08/26/2009	EXAMINER			
NATH & ASSOCIATES PLLC 112 South West Street Alexandria, VA 22314				DESAI, RITA J		
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER				
1625						
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE				
08/26/2009		PAPER				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/591,768	KAUTZ, ULRICH
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Rita J. Desai	1625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 July 2009.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-10, 12 and 15-17 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 15-17 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-10 and 12 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

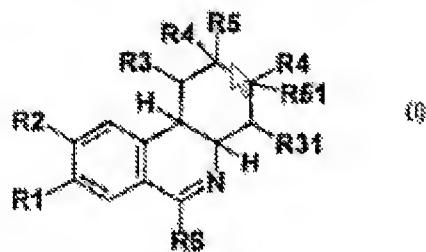
1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/18/07, 12/18/06.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION***Election/Restrictions***

Applicant's election with traverse of Group I, claims 1-10 and 12, in the reply filed on 7/1/09 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that there is unity of invention. This is not found persuasive because as the examiner had previously stated

See WO 97/35854 (cited in the IDS) discloses similar compounds wherein R6 is a phenyl substituted by R7, R8 and R7 is SO₂R70.



(cited in the IDS) disclose the reverse amides of the applicants compounds.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

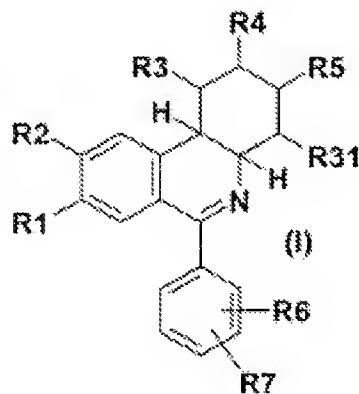
The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for formula I where in R3, R5, R31 and R6 are H, and R1 and R2 to be hydroxyl or alkoxy, does not reasonably provide enablement for all these group to be all the various groups as claimed, or for R1 and R2 to be other than hydroxyl or alkoxy or forming a dioxy ring. The specification does not enable any

person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims. *In re Wands*, 858 F.2d 731, 737, 8 USPQ2d 1400, 1404 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

There are many factors to be considered when determining whether there is sufficient evidence to support a determination that a disclosure does not satisfy the enablement requirement and whether any necessary experimentation is “undue”. These factors include 1) the breadth of the claims, 2) the nature of the invention, 3) the state of the prior art, 4) the level of one of ordinary skill, 5) the level of predictability in the art, 6) the amount of direction provided by the inventor, 7) the existence of working examples, and 8) the quantity of experimentation needed to make or use the invention based on the content of the disclosure. *In re Wands*, 858 F.2d 731, 737, 8 USPQ2d 1400, 1404 (Fed. Cir. 1988).

1) The breadth of the claims: The instant claims encompass many compounds of the



formula

wherein R1-R7, R31, R61 have many variables. These compounds cover a very wide range of compounds.

2) The nature of the invention: The invention is a tricyclic compound useful as PDE inhibitors.

3) The state of the prior art: The state of the prior art is that it involves screening in vitro and invivo to determine which compounds exhibit the desired pharmacological activities. There is no absolute predictability and no established correlation between in vitro activity and the treatment as the in vitro data is not a reliable predictor of success even in view of the seemingly high level of skill in the art. The existence of these obstacles establishes that the contemporary knowledge in the art would prevent one of ordinary skill in the art from accepting any therapeutic regimen on its face.

Similar compounds as disclosed in WO 99/05113, WO 99/05111, WO99/05112, WO2/05616 all have the same core with the same activity. None of them have all the other various substituents at these other positions.

4) The level of one of ordinary skill: The ordinary artisan is highly skilled.

5) The level of predictability in the art: How to use :- It is noted that the pharmaceutical art is unpredictable, requiring each embodiment to be individually assessed for physiological activity. In re Fisher, 427 F. 2d 833, 166 USPQ 18(CCPA 1970) indicates that the more unpredictable an area is, the more specific enablement is necessary in order to satisfy the statute. The level of unpredictability in the art is very high. The compounds which differ by a methyl group also show different properties, for e.g. theophylline and caffeine. One of them is a bronchodilator and they differ only by a methyl group.

How to make:- As stated in the preface to a recent treatise:

"Most non-chemists would probably be horrified if they were to learn how many attempted syntheses fail, and how inefficient research chemists are. The ratio of successful to unsuccessful chemical experiments in a normal research laboratory is far below unity, and synthetic research chemists, in the same way as most scientists, spend most of their time working out what went wrong, and why. Despite the many pitfalls lurking in organic synthesis, most organic chemistry textbooks and research articles do give the impression that organic reactions just proceed smoothly and that the total synthesis of complex natural products, for instance, is maybe a labor-intensive but otherwise undemanding task. In fact, most syntheses of structurally complex natural products are the result of several years of hard work by a team of chemists, with almost every step requiring careful optimization. The final synthesis usually looks quite different from that originally planned, because of unexpected difficulties encountered in the initially chosen synthetic sequence. Only the seasoned practitioner who has experienced for himself the many failures and frustrations which the development (sometimes even

the repetition) of a synthesis usually implies will be able to appraise such work.....Chemists tend not to publish negative results, because these are, as opposed to positive results, never definite (and far too copious)" Dorwald F. A.

Side Reactions in Organic Synthesis, 2005, Wiley: VCH, Weinheim pg. IX of Preface.

6) The amount of direction provided by the inventor: The inventor provides some compounds with R3, R5, R31 and R6 being H, and R1 and R2 to be hydroxy or alkoxy groups. There are no examples with all the various hetero groups and all the various substituents for R1, R2, R3, R5 , R31 and R6.

7) The existence of working examples: The instant specification does not have any working examples for these various substituents. Nor are there similar substituents on the prior art compounds . There is no activity data given for this scope, the variables encompass large groups.

8) The quantity of experimentation needed to make or use the invention based on the content of the disclosure: Since there are no working examples, the amount of experimentation to make and use these compounds is very high and burdensome.

Taking the above eight factors into consideration, it is not seen where the instant specification enables the ordinary artisan to make and/or use the instantly claimed invention.

Genetech Inc Vs Nova Nordisk 42 USPQ 2d 1001.

“A patent is not a hunting license. It is not a reward for search but compensation for its successful conclusion and patent protection is granted in return for an enabling disclosure of an invention , not for vague intimations of general ideas that may or may not be workable.”

MPEP 2164.01(a) states, "A conclusion of lack of enablement means that,

based on the evidence regarding each of the above factors, the specification, at the

time the application was filed, would not have taught one skilled in the art how to make and/or use the full scope of the claimed invention without undue experimentation. *In re Wright*, 999 F.2d 1557, 1562, 27 USPQ2d 1510, 1513 (Fed. Cir. 1993)." That conclusion is clearly justified here. Thus, undue experimentation will be required to practice Applicants' invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

WO-97/35854 Gutterer et al

WO 99/05113 Gutterer et al

WO 0042020 Flockerzi et al

WO 0042017 Gutterer Beate

WO 02/06238 Gutterer et al

WO02/05616 Bundschun et al .

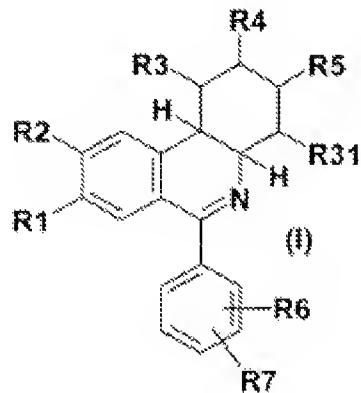
WO 2004019945 Kautz et al

WO 2004019944 Flockerzi et al.

US 20070167482

(all references are cited on the IDS)

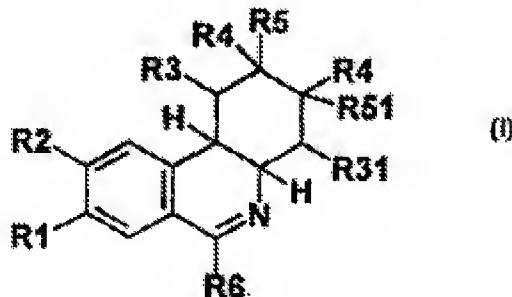
Applicants compounds are drawn to the compounds of the formula



Wherein R4 and/or R5 are -O linked groups. And R7 is a thio group.

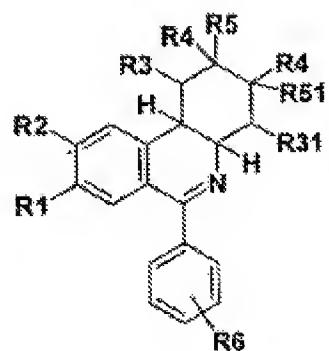
Scope & Content of Prior Art MPEP 2141.01

- WO 97/35854 teaches compounds of the formula



wherein R6 is a phenyl substituted by $-\text{SO}_2\text{R71}$ group .

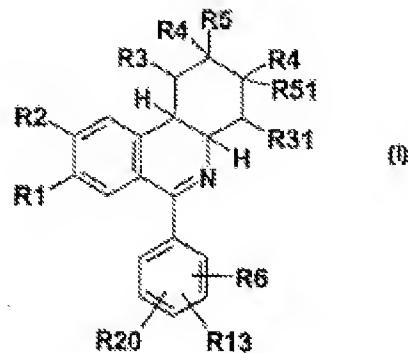
- The reference WO 99/05113 Gutterer et al teaches compounds of the formula



wherein R6 is a R6 is $\text{SO}_2\text{-N}(\text{R7})\text{R8}$ or

Art Unit: 1625

- The reference WO 0042020 Flockerzi et al discloses compounds of the formula

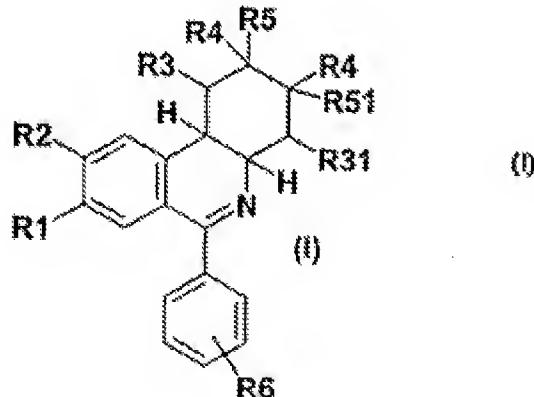


wherein R6 and R13 have options of

7, S-R6, C(O)-R6, CH₂-R10, S(O)₂-aryl, O-S(O)₂-R11,

(18, S(O)₂-R19, S(O)₂-N(R16)R16

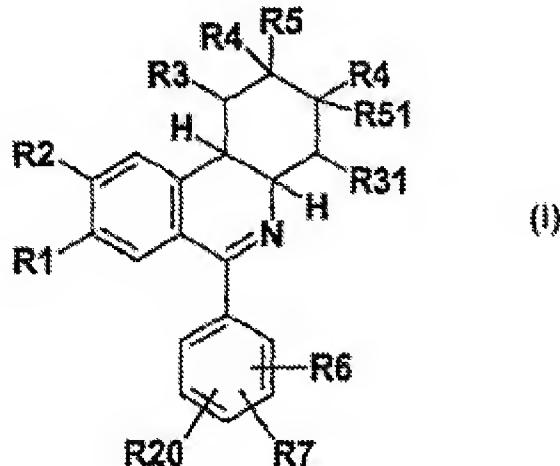
- Reference WO 0042017 teaches similar compounds of the formula



wherein R6 is a SO₂-

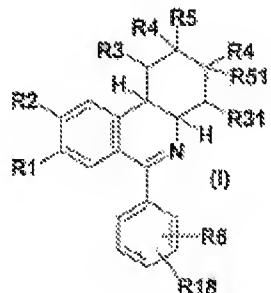
N(R7)R8 group. .

- WO 02/06238 Gutterer et al teaches compounds of the formula



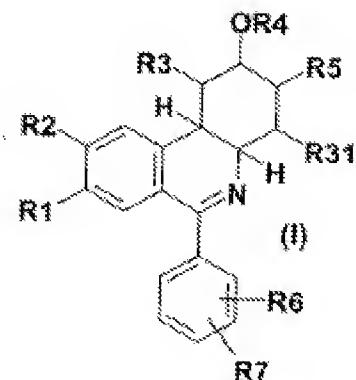
wherein R7 can clearly be a thio-

- WO 02/05616 discloses compounds



generically where R6 can be a $-\text{SO}_2\text{N}(\text{R7})\text{R8}$ group

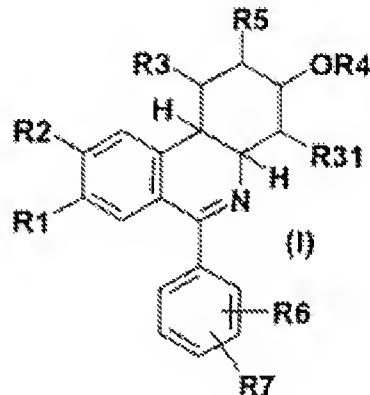
- WO 2004019944 Flockerzi et al 102 (e) teaches compounds of the formula



these compounds have the same core as the

prior art with the OR4 group too.

- The reference WO 2004019945 Kautz et al 102(e) date teaches the compounds of



the formula
normal R5 position being OR4.

with the

- US 20070167482

Teaches compounds that have both a thio substituent and a OR group at the R4 and or
R5 position

All these compounds have the same activity of PDE inhibitors.

Difference between Prior Art and the claims MPEP 2141.02

The difference between some of the prior art WO-97/35854 Gutterer et al WO 99/05113 Gutterer et al ,WO 0042020 Flockerzi et al ,WO 0042017 Gutterer Beate , WO 02/06238 Gutterer et al , WO02/05616 Bundschen et al . and applicants compounds is the specific substitutents of the R4, R5 groups . But the '945 and '944 references do teach the Oalkyl group at the R1 and R2 positions.

Prima Facie Obviousness , Rational and Motivation MPEP 2142-2413

The prior art references have the same core and similar activity. The R4 or R5 being an -OR group is shown in the '945 and '944 , the other older WO documents have the same core with various options of the phenyl ring being substituted by the thio group.

In view of the several reference, which have similar properties and a similar core , making minor modifications such as an OH group at a different location (positional isomers) or a substitutent on the phenyl group and expect the compounds to retain its properties would be motivation enough for a person of skill in the art to try and modify the compounds. There is no showing of unexpected results to show that the compounds are unobvious over those of the prior art.

A compound that differs only in molecular arrangement from the compounds disclosed in the prior art and which for which no unexpected properties of this compound are disclosed in the specification is unpatenable, *Ex parte KRUEGER AND HAYES*, 121 USPQ 420, *In re NORRIS*, 84 USPQ 458, *In re Hass* 60 USPQ 552, which found a *prima facia* case of obviousness of 1-chloro-1-nitrobutane over 1-chloro-1-nitroisobutane taught in the prior art, *Ex parte Ulyot*, 103 USPQ 185, which found a *prima facia* case of

obviousness of 2-oxo-quinolines over a 1-oxo-isoquinoline taught in the prior art, *In re FINLEY*, 81 USPQ 383, which found a *prima facia* case of obviousness of 2-ethyl hexyl salicylate over octyl salicylate taught in the prior art. For example, “Position isomerism has been used as a tool to obtain new and useful drugs” (*Englehardt*) and “Position isomerism is fact of close structural similarity” (*Mehta*, emphasis in the original). Note also *In re Jones*, 21 USPQ2d 1942, which states at 1943 “Particular types or categories of structural similarity without more, have, in past cases, given rise to *prima facie* obviousness”; one of those listed is “adjacent homologues and structural isomers”. Position isomers are the basic form of close “structural isomers.” *In re Deuel* 34 USPQ2d 1210, 1214 which states, “Structural relationships may provide the requisite motivation or suggestion to modify known compounds to obtain new compounds...a known compound may suggest its analog or isomers, either geometric (cis v. trans) or position isomers (e.g. *ortho* v. *para*).”

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the “right to exclude” granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a

nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-10 and 12 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-14 of U.S. Patent No. 7329676. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because they do disclose the same core with R4 or R5 being OR4 or OR5 along with the substituent on the phenyl ring in view of US 6121279, 6127378, 6191139, 6410551, 6476025, 6306869 or by themselves as changing the R4 or R5 to be an OR4 or OR5 is just a positional isomer and in view of all the various reference the activity remains the same, motivating a person of skill in the art to make the positional isomers and expect the properties to be maintained.

Claims 1-10 and 12 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-8 of copending Application No. 10/589082 now allowed, 10/524820, and US 20080319067, US 20070167482 and US 20070185149. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because these compounds have the same core and same use. See above 103 rejection. Similar compounds are expected to have similar properties in the absence of unexpected results.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

The double patenting also applies to application numbers 11/590,803, 10/591472, ,

11/795981, 11/885423 , 11/591480 as they, in combination are obvious.

All these application have the same core and same use. US 7329676 teaches the OR4 11/591480 also teach the same groups and has the same activity. Thus all the variables are taught and applicants have similar core and same use and so one of skill in the art would be motivated to modify and find it obvious to try to make these compounds with a predictable result.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rita J. Desai whose telephone number is 571-272-0684.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, flex time..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Janet Andres can be reached on 571-272-0867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Rita J. Desai/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1625

August 20th, 2009.